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regulations for the Dress of the Navy
of the United States - 1841

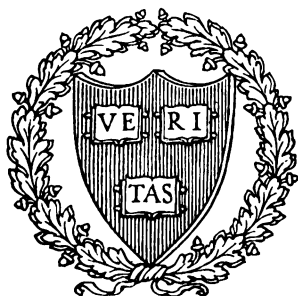
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***EXTRACT** from the General Regulations for the
government of the Navy of the United States, ap-
proved February 19, 1841.*

UNIFORM AND DRESS

OF THE

NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHAPTER XLII.

UNIFORM.

The following uniform is hereby established for, and to be worn by, the officers of the navy of the United States :

CAPTAIN'S FULL DRESS COAT.

To be made of dark blue cloth, lined with white cloth or kersey-mere, double breasted, with nine navy buttons, the rows of buttons to be three inches apart when buttoned up in the way which it is to be worn. Standing collar, sloped in front and lined with white. Cuffs to have four navy buttons on the top, to be open underneath, with two small navy buttons. Four navy buttons under the pocket flaps, one on each hip, two in the middle of each fold of the skirt, and one at the bottom. The pockets to be in the folds.

CAPTAIN'S UNDERDRESS COAT.

To be made of dark blue cloth, lined with the same, and with a rolling collar. Buttons to be the same in number and size, and arranged in the same manner as for the full dress.

DRESS OF THE NAVY.**COMMANDER'S FULL DRESS COAT.**

Is to be the same as directed for captains, except that it is to have but three buttons on the cuffs and pocket flaps, and one in the middle of the skirts.

COMMANDER'S UNDRRESS COAT.

The same as for the captains, except that there are to be but three buttons on the cuffs and pocket flaps, and one in the middle of the folds of the skirts.

LIEUTENANT'S FULL DRESS COAT.

The same as for commanders, except to have round the collar an embroidered live oak leaf and acorns, as is now worn, as per pattern.

LIEUTENANT'S UNDRRESS COAT.

The same as for commanders.

PASSED MIDSHIPMAN'S FULL DRESS COAT.

The same as for commanders, except that there shall be, on each side of the collar, a foul anchor and star of five points, (as per pattern,) embroidered in gold. The anchor shall be, from ring to crown, two and eight-tenths of an inch, from point to point, one and a half inches, and the diameter of the star to be one and three-tenths of an inch.

PASSED MIDSHIPMAN'S UNDRRESS COAT.

The same as for commanders, except that there shall be, on each side of the collar, the anchor and star, as prescribed for the full dress coat.

MIDSHIPMAN'S DRESS COAT.

The same as the undress coat for the passed midshipmen, in all respects, excepting the star on the collar.

On duty they may wear short jackets of dark blue cloth, with the same number of small navy buttons on the breast, cuffs, and

pockets as for their dress coat, with an anchor of buff cloth inserted in the collar of the jacket, as for their coat.

MASTER'S DRESS COAT.

To be the same as the undress coat for lieutenants, with the exception that there shall be worn, on each side of the collar, two loops of gold lace $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and half an inch wide, with a button to each loop.

SECOND MASTER'S DRESS COAT.

To be the same as for masters, with the exception that it is to have but one loop and button, of the same dimensions, on each side of the collar.

SURGEON'S FULL DRESS COAT.

To be the same as directed for commanders, except that there shall be embroidered in gold round the collar a branch of live oak, and three rows of gold lace one and a half inch wide round the upper edge of the cuffs. The buttons to be between the two upper rows.

SURGEON'S UNDRRESS COAT.

To be the same as for lieutenants, except that there shall be three rows of gold lace one-quarter of an inch wide round the upper edge of the cuffs. The buttons to be between the two upper rows.

PASSED ASSISTANT SURGEON'S FULL DRESS COAT.

To be the same as for surgeons, except that there shall be but *two* rows of similar gold lace round the cuffs—one to be above, and one below, the buttons.

PASSED ASSISTANT SURGEON'S UNDRRESS COAT.

To be the same as for surgeons, except to wear only two rows of lace round the cuffs, as for full dress.

DRESS OF THE NAVY.**ASSISTANT SURGEON'S FULL DRESS COAT.**

To be the same as for surgeons, except to have only one strip of similar lace round the upper part of the cuff and above the buttons.

ASSISTANT SURGEON'S UNDRRESS COAT.

To be the same as the surgeons, except to have only one strip of lace on the cuffs, as for full dress.

PURSER'S FULL DRESS COAT.

To be the same as for commanders, except the collar is to be embroidered in gold, with oak leaves and acorns on the upper and front edges, and similar embroidery on each side of the collar to extend back four inches, the whole to be made as per pattern.

PURSER'S UNDRRESS COAT.

To be the same as for lieutenants, except to have neither epaulettes nor straps.

SECRETARIES' COAT.

To be the same as undress for lieutenants, with the exception of buttons on the cuffs.

CHAPLAIN'S COAT.

To be of dark blue cloth, with rolling collar of black velvet, in other respects like the undress coat of the lieutenants.

PROFESSOR'S OF MATHEMATICS AND CLERK'S COATS.

To be of dark blue cloth, lined with the same, double breasted, rolling collar, seven navy buttons on each breast, one on each hip, and one at the bottom of the folds of each skirt.

BOATSWAIN'S, GUNNER'S, CARPENTER'S, AND SAILMAKER'S COATS.

To be of dark blue cloth, lined with the same, double breasted, seven navy buttons on each breast, slashed sleeves with three small

navy buttons on each, two large navy buttons under each pocket flap, one on each hip, and one at the bottom of each skirt.

VESTS.

For all officers in full dress, the vests are to be white woollen cloth, or of white kerseymere or cotton, single breasted, with as many small navy buttons on the breast as is directed to be worn on the breast of the coat of the officer, standing collar coming to the edge of the breast, and sloping in a line with it, and no flaps to pockets.

Blue cloth vests, made like those for full dress, may be worn with undress, and double breasted vests may be worn in cold weather, of white or blue, with navy buttons as designated.

PANTALOONS.

The pantaloons for all classes of officers are to be of white or blue woollen cloth, or of white linen or cotton. White is to be worn in warm weather, and blue in cold, or on foreign service, as may be designated by the commanding officer of the fleet or squadron; or should the vessel be separated from the squadron, then according to the orders of her captain. They are to be worn over short boots, or over shoes and white stockings. None but dark blue coats, jackets, vests and pantaloons, or white vests and pantaloons, are to be worn by any officer of the navy, when under orders for or on duty, as all mixed or other colors are prohibited.

EPAULETTES.

Captains, commanders, and lieutenants, only, are to wear epaulettes.

The epaulettes shall be made of gilt gold bullion, and the bullion to be half an inch in diameter and three inches long; straps to be plain and have an edging and crescent.

A captain commanding a squadron entitled to wear a broad pendant, shall wear on the strap of each epaulette a plain silver an-

chor and eagle, and a silver star above the eagle, the whole to be arranged and of the size as per pattern.

Captains shall wear the same, excepting the star on the straps.

Commanders shall wear the same, but with nothing on the straps.

Lieutenants shall wear one epaulette, like those for commanders, on the right shoulder. Epaulettes are never to be worn without swords, when absent from the ship. Every officer entitled to wear epaulettes shall wear above the shoulder seam of full and undress coats, shoulder straps, which shall be made as follows :

For captains, of blue cloth, two and a half inches long, half an inch wide, with gold embroidery on each edge, one on each shoulder. When authorized to wear a star on the strap of the epaulette, they shall also wear an embroidered star in the centre of the shoulder strap.

For commanders, of gold lace, half an inch wide, two and a half inches long, one on each shoulder.

For lieutenants, one of gold lace, on the right shoulder, two and a half inches long, and half an inch wide.

BUTTONS.

The buttons shall be of two sizes, large and small, the sizes, form, and arrangement, shall be like the pattern.

CRAVATS OR STOCKS.

Are to be of black silk, for all officers, white shirt-collar to show above it, no colored or check shirts shall be worn by officers.

COCKED HATS AND CAPS.

Black cocked hats are to be worn, in full dress, by all officers excepting clerks, professors of mathematics, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sailmakers.

They are to be made of the following dimensions, viz: not less than nine inches high on the back (or fan;) in front, (or on the cock,)

six inches ; in length from end to end of the bottom, nineteen inches ; the curve to be one inch and a tenth at the back, and to be in proportion to the height of the officer, as per pattern. They are to be bound with black, to show one and a half inches on each side, and with tassels of five gold and five blue bullions each ; black silk cockade, six inches wide, and small navy button in the centre.

Captains and commanders are to wear a loop over the cockade, to be formed of six gold bullions, to show three inches wide, the two inner ones twisted together.

Lieutenants, masters, passed, and other midshipmen entitled to wear cocked hats, will wear the loop formed of four gold bullions, without being twisted, to show two inches wide.

Civil officers entitled to wear cocked hats, will wear a loop formed of gold lace, to show two inches wide.

Blue cloth caps are to be worn by those not entitled to wear cocked hats.

When in undress uniform, officers entitled to wear cocked hats may wear those, or dark blue cloth caps, made according to pattern ; but all other officers are to wear blue cloth caps, with the undress uniform. All commission officers shall wear a band of gold lace round their cloth caps, one and a half inches wide.

Passed and other midshipmen are to wear on the front of their caps, over the visor, an anchor and a star, or an anchor similar to that which is prescribed for the collar of their coats. All other officers to wear them plain, or with black silk bands.

SWORDS AND BELTS.

The swords are to be cut and thrust ; the blade to be not less than twenty-six inches long, and not less than one inch wide at the hilt. The belt must be made with a frog, so as to wear the sword perpendicular ; grip to be of white, scabbard to be of black leather, mountings to be of yellow gilt. Belts for undress to be of black leather ; for full dress, the belts to be of white webbing, both to be one and

a half inch wide; the mountings must be yellow gilt. The swords and mountings, and the mountings of the belt, to be according to pattern. Belts shall be worn under the vest. Swords are always to be worn with uniform, when absent from the ship on duty, or when on leave upon foreign stations.

OVER COATS, OR PEA JACKETS.

When over coats or pea jackets are worn by officers, where uniform is required by regulation or order, they shall be made of dark blue pilot, or other cloth, the skirts not to extend below the lower part of the calf of the leg. The buttons shall be the same in number on the breast and cuffs, and be disposed in the same manner as directed for the undress coat of the officer who wears it.

For officers entitled to wear epaulettes, their shoulder-straps shall be the same as for their other coats; but epaulettes are never to be worn upon the pea jacket or over coat.

Uniform is to be worn by all officers who may be attached to any vessel, navy yard, station, recruiting service, or hospital, for duty, unless absent from the station.

Officers are to conform strictly to it, wearing either the entire full dress or the entire undress; and are prohibited from wearing navy buttons upon any article of dress which does not conform to the prescribed uniform.

The commanding officer of the squadron, or of a vessel when acting alone, may direct when white or blue pantaloons shall be worn, so that the dress of all shall correspond in appearance.

Officers are to wear their uniform whenever they make an official visit to the President of the United States, or to the Secretary of the Navy.

Officers are to wear their uniform when acting as members of a court-martial, or court of inquiry, or when attending such courts as witnesses, or in any other official capacity.

The undress uniform shall be worn upon such courts, unless the officer ordering the same shall specially order the full dress to be worn.

Officers constituting, or appearing before, boards of examination, shall wear their undress uniform.

Officers are strictly prohibited from wearing any part of their uniform, whilst suspended from duty, by sentence of a court-martial.

Officers on furlough are recommended not to wear their uniform, except on special occasions.

Petty officers shall wear the following marks of distinction :

Boatswains' mates, gunners' mates, carpenters' mates, masters at arms, ship's stewards, and ship's cooks, by an eagle and an anchor on the *right* sleeve of their jackets in winter, and frocks in summer.

Quarter-masters, quarter-gunners, captains of forecastles, captains of tops, captains of afterguard, armorers, coopers, ship's corporals, and captains of the hold, by an eagle and an anchor, in the same manner, upon their *left* sleeve.

The eagle and anchor shall be not more than three inches in length, and shall be of the same pattern as upon the navy button, [except the stars] placed half way between the elbow and shoulder, upon the front of the sleeve. It shall be white when worn on a blue garment, and blue when worn on a white garment.

The outside clothing of the petty officers, seamen, and ordinary seamen, landmen, and boys, for muster, shall consist of blue woolen frocks, with white linen or duck collars and cuffs, or blue cloth jacket and trousers, blue vest when vests are worn, black hat, black handkerchief and shoes, when the weather is cold ; when the weather is warm, it shall consist of white frock and trousers, and black or white hats, as the commander may direct, having regard to the convenience and comfort of the crew, black handkerchiefs and shoes. The collars and breasts of the frocks to be lined or faced with blue cotton cloth, stitched with white thread or cotton.

The hair of all persons belonging to the Navy, when in actual service, is to be kept short. No part of the beard is to be worn long excepting whiskers, which shall not descend more than one inch below the tip of the ear, and thence in a line towards the corners of the mouth.

REGULATION.

The full dress coat of the Purser shall have embroidery on the cuffs, and the undress coat shall have lace on the cuffs, as before the promulgation of the foregoing orders.

A. P. UPSHUR.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
December 3, 1841.

REGULATION.

UNDRESS UNIFORM.

All commissioned Officers in the Navy may wear a double-breasted blue frock coat, with rolling collar, nine buttons on each side, and the usual number of buttons on the cuffs and folds, and shoulder straps according to their respective grades.

CHAPLAIN'S UNIFORM.

Chaplains shall wear a black coat, with a black velvet collar, and the navy button now in use. (They need not, however, provide themselves with new coats until those they now have are worn out.) While performing religious services on the Sabbath, or on other occasions, on board vessels of war or at yards and shore stations, they shall wear the black silk gown usually worn by clergymen.

DAVID HENSHAW.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 20, 1844.

REGULATION.

The Regulation of the 20th January, 1844, prescribing a uniform for Chaplains in the Navy, is so modified, that, in performing Divine service, the Chaplain may, in his discretion, wear the black gown, a plain black coat, or the uniform coat prescribed by that Regulation.

J. Y. MASON.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
April 23, 1844.

REGULATION.

The following changes and modifications in the uniform prescribed for Officers in the U. S. Navy, are hereby authorized, to take effect on the first day of January, 1843.

EPAULETS.

Captains, Commanders, and Lieutenants only, are to wear epaulets, and they shall wear one on each shoulder, over the shoulder strap; yet never without swords when absent from the ship. The bullions of the epaulet shall be of silver gilt; those of Captains and Commanders to be in two rows, the outer row to be half an inch in diameter, and three inches long, and twenty in number; those of Lieutenants, three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and three inches long, in two rows, with a proportionate number in the outer row.

EPAULET STRAPS.

Straps of all epaulets shall be of Navy gold lace, with a worked edge and crescent, according to the pattern.

On the strap of each epaulet, a Captain, commanding a squadron and entitled to wear a broad pendant, shall wear a plain silver anchor and eagle, two inches long, and above the eagle a silver star, five-eighths of an inch in diameter; other Captains the same, excepting the star; Commanders the anchor only.

SHOULDER STRAPS.

Every officer entitled to wear epaulets, shall wear, on each shoulder, above the shoulder seam of full and undress coats, a strap from three to four inches long and from five-eighths to three-quarters of an inch wide, which shall be made as follows:

For Captains and Commanders, of blue cloth, with gold embroidery on each edge; for Lieutenants, of Navy gold lace.

Captains, who are authorized to wear a star on the strap of the epaulet, shall wear an embroidered star in the centre of the shoulder strap; other Captains a plain silver eagle.

FROCK COATS.

In summer or in tropical climates, commissioned officers and passed midshipmen may wear dark blue, summer cloth frock coats, of the same style and pattern as the frock coats at present allowed, with medium size buttons.

CAPS.

Passed Midshipmen and Midshipmen shall wear round their caps a band of Navy gold lace, one and a half inches wide, instead of the present anchor and star.

STRAW HATS.

In summer or in tropical climates, officers, when in undress and without epaulets, may wear on ship board white straw hats—the body of the hat to be six inches in height, and the rim three and a half inches in width.

SWORD BELTS.

Belts are to be of black glazed leather, one and a half inches wide, with slings of the same leather, three-fourths of an inch wide, with swivels, and a hook in one of the rings to suspend the sword; the mountings must be of yellow gilt. Belts shall be worn under the coat.

SWORDS.

Swords are always to be worn with uniform, when absent from the ship on duty; or when on leave on foreign stations. Swords and belts, presented to officers for public services, may be worn in full dress instead of the regulation sword and belt.

GEORGE BANCROFT,

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
June 4th, 1845.

CORRECTION.

Page 7—"SURGEON'S FULL DRESS COAT," third line, for "one and a half" read "one half,"

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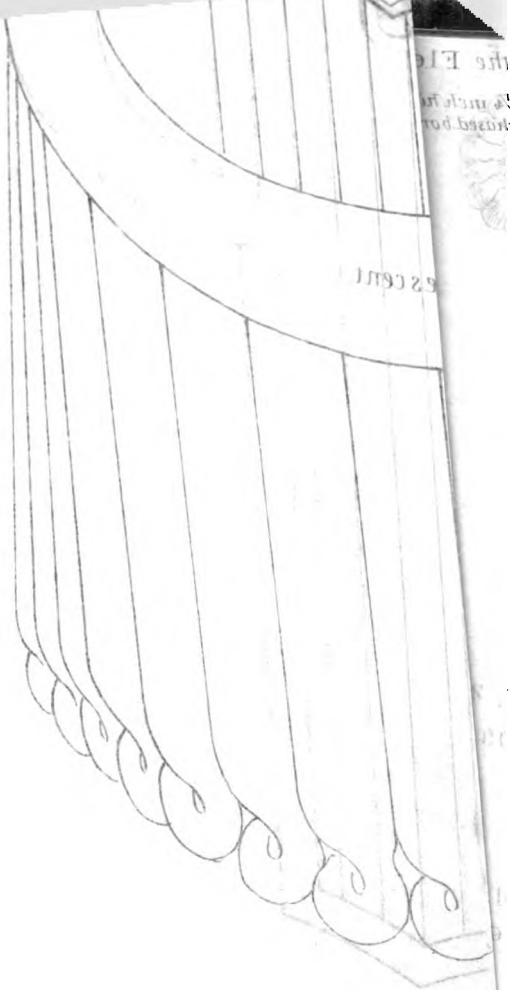
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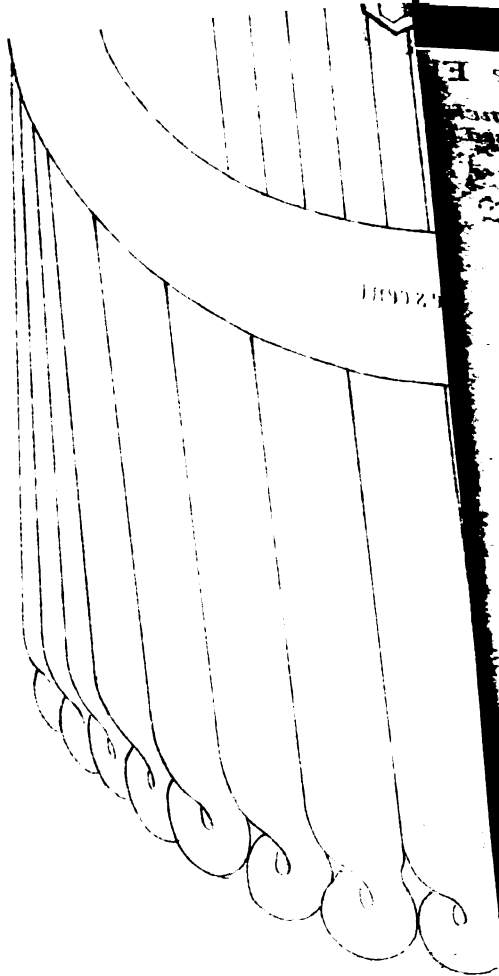
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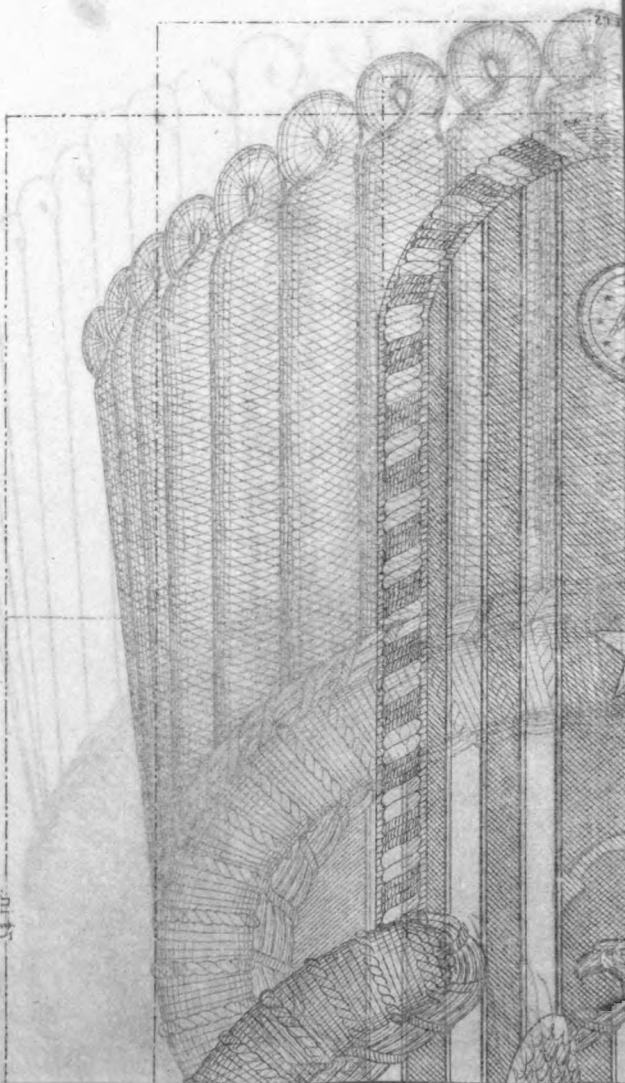
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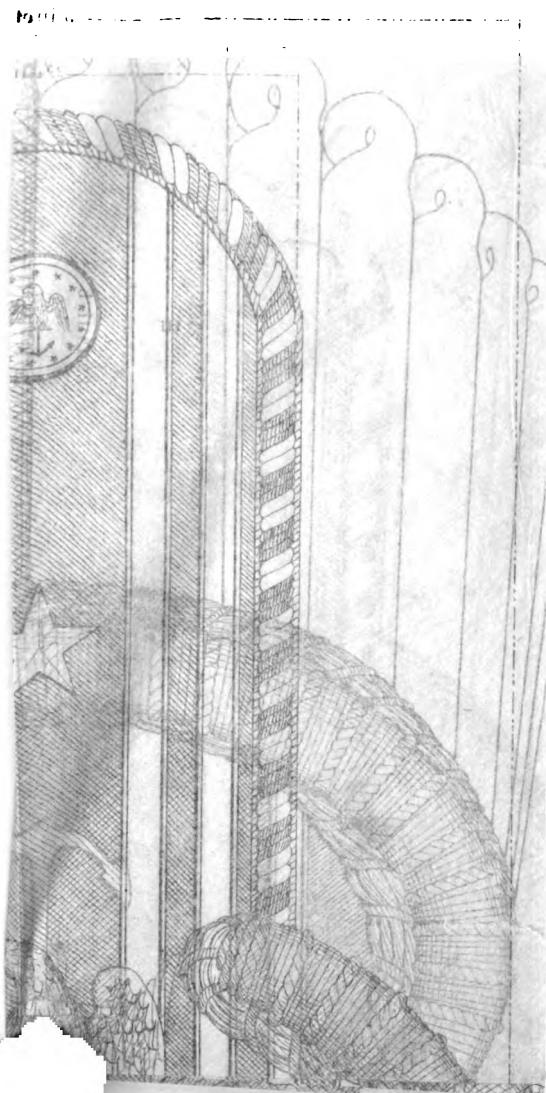
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